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For Collectors

of the

LIBERTY SEATED COIN SERIES

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In Remembrance

Robert Warren Everett

Bob Everett passed away in his sleep some time in the early morning hours of August 7, 1997. He was only 49 years old.

Bob, known as "Big Bob" at coin shows, owned Classical American coins of Seattle, Washington. He was an enthusiastic collector who became an enthusiastic dealer. He truly enjoyed the coins and the people with whom he did business. It didn't matter whether he was at a show, sitting down over coffee, or in his garden, Bob always had time to share and something worthwhile to say. When he talked coins, it was a marvel to see him gently handle even the smallest coins in those tremendous hands. His reputation for honesty and integrity was above reproach.

Bob belonged to the LSCC, EAC, CONECA, JRCS, the Seattle Coin Club and the ANA. He loved the outdoors and often spent his spare time hiking in the mountains. Deception Pass Falls in Washington state was a favorite of his.

"When leaves have fallen
And skies are gray
And summer seems so far away,
I'll still be there
Among the trees
Beneath the grass
And with the breeze."

~Goodbye, Friend

In appreciation of a treasured friendship
Scott Grieb, Ken Hill and all other collectors
and dealers who knew him

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An Update on the 1875-S Branch Mint Proof Twenty Cent Piece

by

Lane J. Brunner

The Liberty Seated twenty cent piece has received little attention in recent years relative to other denominations of Seated coins. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that there are relatively few collectable coins in the twenty cent piece series. Only four business strike coins are readily available to collectors: the 1875, 1875-S, 1875-CC and 1876. In addition, there are four proof coins available to collectors: the 1875, 1876, 1877 and 1878. However, this short series does have two classic numismatic rarities. The first is the well known and rarely offered 1876-CC twenty cent piece. With fewer than 20 pieces known to exist, this date becomes available only when the great collections are sold. The other rarity in the series is the 1875-S branch mint proof.

Since the 1875-S branch mint proof has not been well publicized, this issue enjoys less of a following than the elusive 1876-CC coin. It has been reported that approximately 12 examples of the 1875-S branch mint proof were struck.[1] These coins were likely made as a special issue for mint officials and honored guests during a special ceremony at the San Francisco mint. At present, at least 6 of these pieces have been identified.[2][3] It is likely that more examples are extant but have not yet been identified as branch mint proofs. In the past three years, I have seen three pieces offered for sale. None of these pieces were cataloged as having the provenance of those reported by Rauch[2] or Breen.[3] At least two of these were different coins with one of them purchased by this author.

General Diagnostics

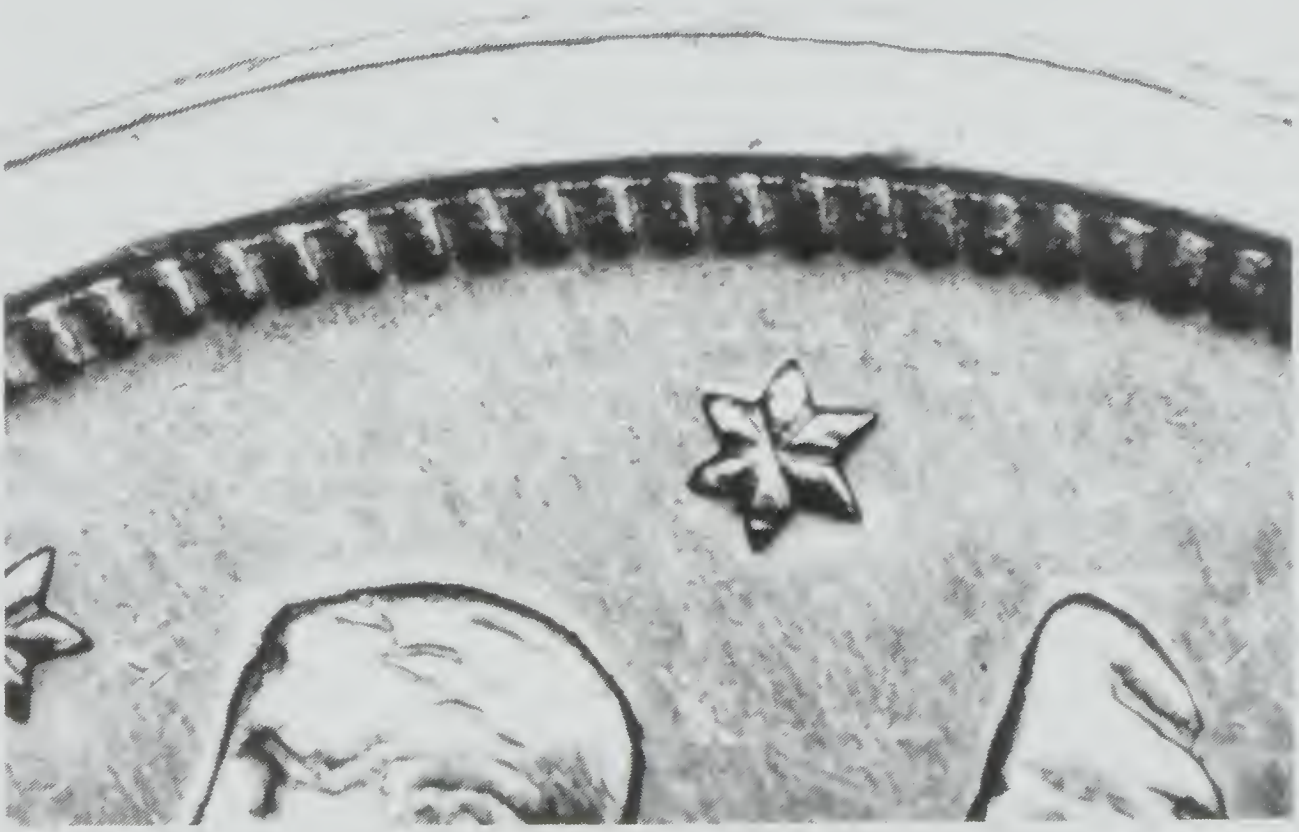
The die characteristics for the obverse and reverse of the 1875-S branch mint proof twenty cent piece are distinct, but require close examination for positive identification. These coins will appear to be very well struck, especially on the shield and stars

on the obverse. They will have a broad rim with square edges. The rim will also have a partial wire extrusion which is evident on both the obverse and reverse of the coin. The denticles on the obverse and reverse will be fully struck and well defined. Furthermore, there is no evidence of misplaced digits in the denticles below the date.

The fields on both the obverse and reverse will be reflective, with the reverse having a deeper mirrorlike surface. Because of the strong strike, the fields should appear concave relative to the devices. There should exist mild striation marks which are most notable near the rim at 1 o'clock and 7 o'clock on the obverse and in the corresponding areas on the reverse. The devices will appear to be slightly frosted and they will have the appearance of an early die business strike rather than the typical frosted finish of contemporary proof issues. The diagnostic characteristics of the obverse and reverse fields may be obscured by cleaning or some other impairment. Most, if not all, known specimens of the 1875-S branch mint proof twenty cent piece have been impaired in one manner or another.

Obverse Diagnostics

Two areas on the obverse of the branch mint proof can be used for diagnostic purposes. The first is a small spine about 0.1 mm long that extends from the inside of the pole about 0.2 mm below the hand. The second diagnostic is a set of three scratches that run in a nearly horizontal direction between the bars of the shield. A single scratch runs between the third and fourth vertical bars, about 0.5 mm above the base of the shield. The other two scratches run between the ninth and tenth vertical bars. Both scratches originate on the tenth bar and nearly reach the ninth bar. The bottom scratch is about 0.4 mm above the tip of the shield while the top scratch is about 0.8 mm above the tip of the shield.



1875-S Proof Twenty Cent Piece with Broad Rim and Partial Wire Extrusion

1875-S Proof Twenty Cent Piece with Spine from Inside of Pole

1875-S Proof Twenty Cent Piece with Three Die Scratches in Shield

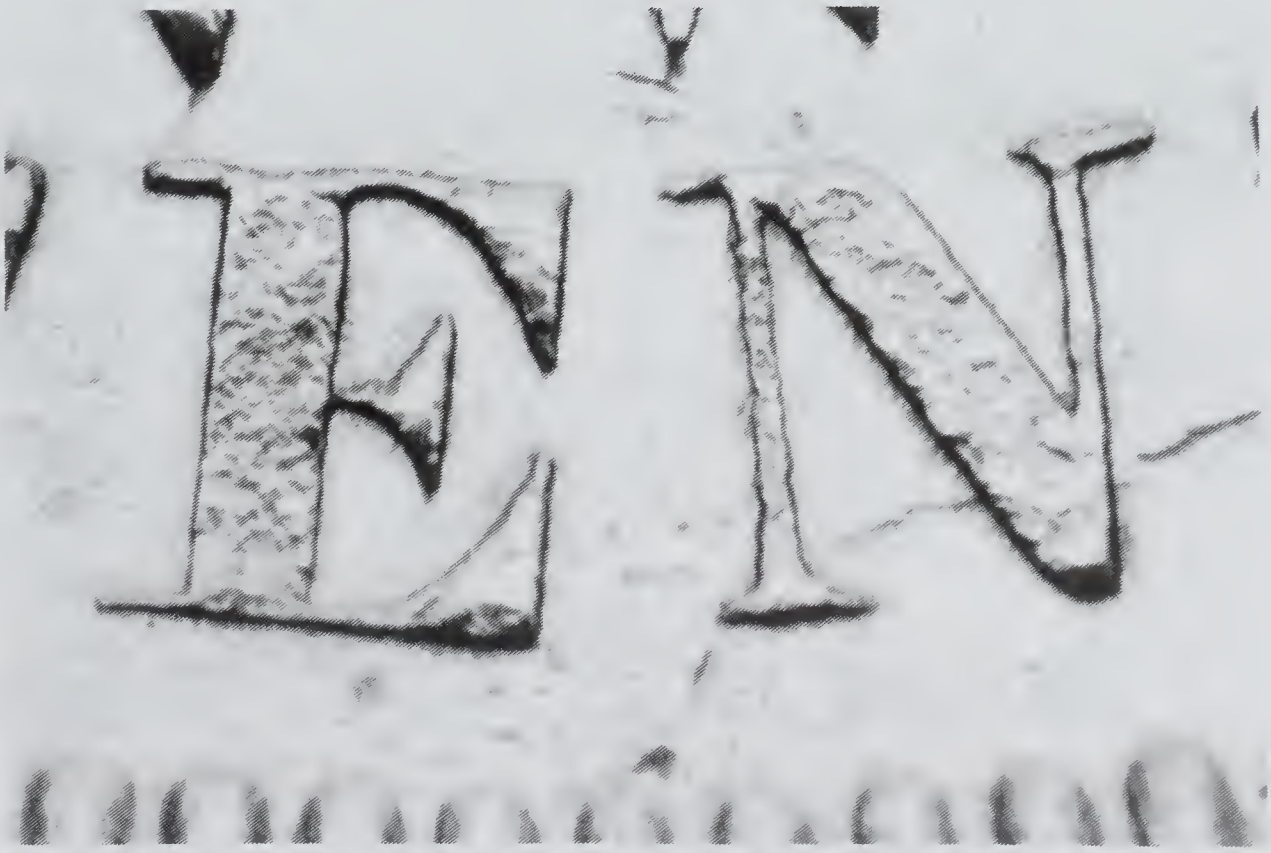
Reverse Diagnostics

Three reverse diagnostics are used to identify the branch mint proof. The first is a small die scratch that is visible about 1.0 mm above the mintmark between the eagle's claws. This scratch begins at the upper arrow shaft and runs down to the left to the juncture of the feather with the lower arrow shaft. The second diagnostic involves a weakness in the T and S in CENTS as a result of heavy die polishing. The top left serif of the T is slightly separated from the upright and the lower left serif of the T is missing. The lower serif of the S is also separated from the rest of the letter and it is very weak. The third diagnostic is a die scratch that runs from the tip of the leaf above the T to the top of the S, a feature not visible on the pictured coin. A previous report by White[1] mentioned the presence of die file marks extending down vertically from the eagle's wing. These file marks appear to be very light and could be easily overlooked.

There are several other diagnostic characteristics that have not yet been reported. There is a die crack that runs through the lower portion of the N and out toward the E in CENTS. This crack is about 0.3 mm above the base of the N and extends nearly 0.4 mm out toward the E. There is a die scratch that runs between the A and second T in STATES. This scratch starts 0.5 mm above the base of the A, touches the lower tip of the top left serif of the T and extends into the upright of the T, 0.8 mm above the base of the letter. The final reverse characteristic is more qualitative. The top surface of the letters appear to be rough. This was shown by White in his 1974 report but not specifically noted.

1875-S Proof Twenty Cent Piece with Die Scratch between Arrow Shafts

1875-S Proof Twenty Cent Piece with Separated Serifs on T and S



1875-S Proof Twenty Cent Piece with Die Crack through N and Rough Surfaces on Letters

Rauch[2] reported that he was unable to find another coin struck from the branch mint proof dies after studying over 300 examples of the 1875-S twenty cent piece in various grades. He therefore concluded that the branch mint proof dies were not used to mint business strike coins. Several years later, Breen[3] stated that the branch mint proof dies were later used to produce business strike coins, with several examples in various states reported. I would be inclined to agree with Breen because it wouldn't seem prudent to discard a working pair of dies after only striking a handful of coins, especially considering the large number of twenty cent pieces that the San Francisco mint was obligated to produce in 1875.

The pictures of the 1875-S proof twenty cent piece were taken by Tom Mulvaney for presentation with this article in the journal. The coin itself was purchased at auction as a branch mint proof from the San Francisco mint.

Diagnostic Characteristics for the 1875-S Branch Mint Proof Twenty Cent Piece

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. Broad, square rims with partial wire extrusion.
2. Moderate to deep mirror fields and slightly frosted devices.
3. Commonly cleaned or impaired.

OBVERSE CHARACTERISTICS

1. Spine extending from inside of pole just below the hand.
2. Three die scratches between vertical bars in shield.

1875-S Proof Twenty Cent Piece with Die Scratch through AT

REVERSE CHARACTERISTICS

1. Die scratch connecting arrow shafts between claws.
2. Overpolished T and S in CENTS.
3. Die crack through N in CENTS.
4. Die scratch between A and T in STATES.

References

1. White R.B, *The 1875-S Twenty Cent Branch Mint Proof.* The Numismatist 1974;87(3):425-428.
2. Rauch R,*The 1875-S Branch Mint Proof Twenty Cent Piece*. The Gobrecht Journal 1975;1(3):6-7.
3. Breen W,*Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Proof Coins* 1722-1977. Wolfeboro, NH: Bowers & Merena Galleries, Inc, 1989.
4. Rauch R, *History of the U.S. Twenty-Cent Piece*. The Gobrecht Journal 1974;1(1):5-7.

• ❖ •

HALF DIMES

1862 ANACS, net Proof-60, cleaned $225

DIMES

1838 ANACS MS-60, Large Stars, partial drapery $425

1854 ANACS AU-58, Breen #3282 245

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1839 No Drapery, ANACS EF-45, Breen #3937 . . . . . $375

1848 ANACS VF-30 175

HALF DOLLARS

1848 ANACS, net EF-40, cleaned, Breen #4810 . . . . . $375

1867 ANACS Proof-61 475

1885 ANACS Proof-62 550

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1841 ANACS AU-50 . . . . . $500

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Variety Analysis of Proof Trade Dollars

by

Joe Kirchgessner

In Issue #69 of the journal I presented an analysis of the Type I and Type II varieties for business strike Trade Dollars. I would like to extend this analysis to proof Trade Dollars in this article. Significant attributes for obverse and reverse types are as follows:

VARIETY	IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS
Type I Obverse	LIBERTY Ribbon Tips point to the left. Hand holding olive branch has 3 fingers.
Type II Obverse	LIBERTY Ribbon Tips point down. Hand holding olive branch has 4 fingers.
Type I Reverse	Berry underneath eagle's sinister claw.
Type II Reverse	No Berry underneath eagle's claw.

Table 1 below outlines the currently known Type I and Type II obverse and reverse combinations for proof Trade Dollars.

Table 1

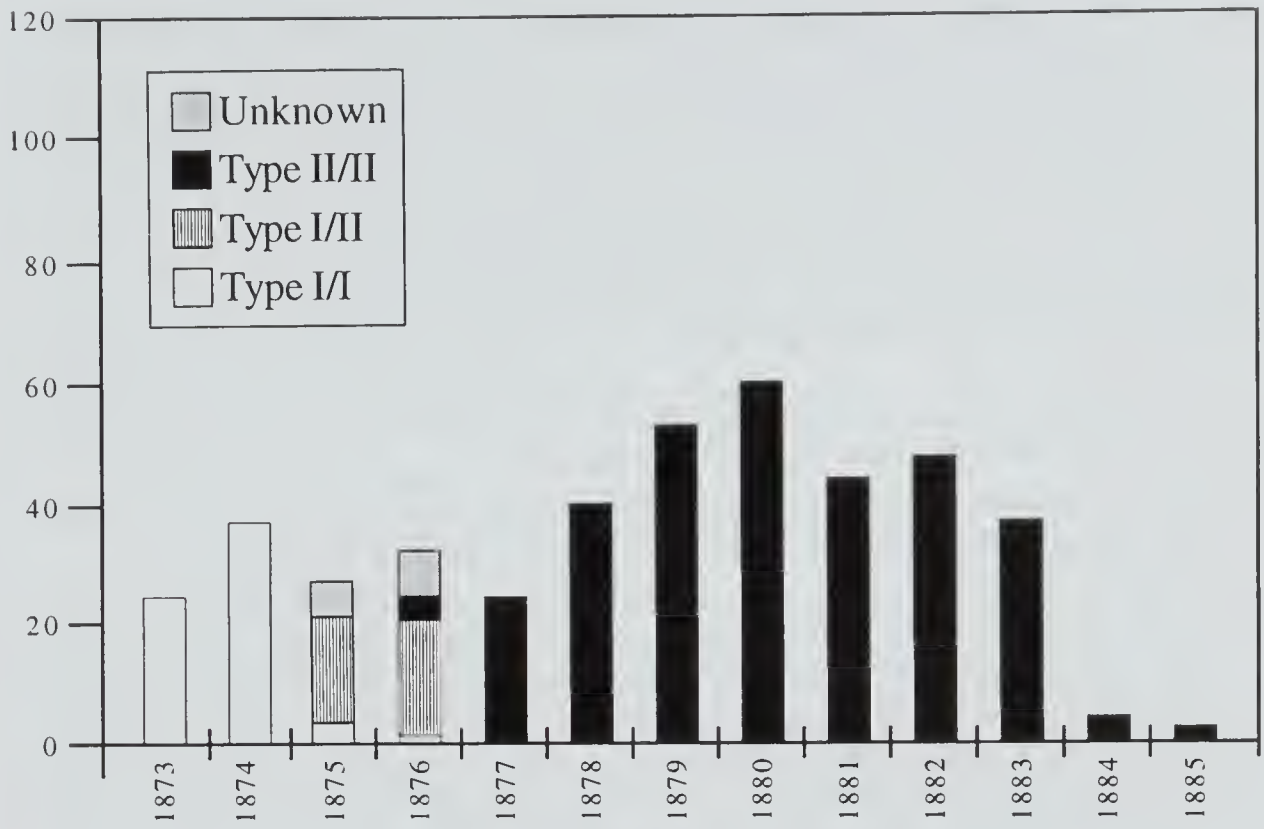
Proof Trade Dollars 1873 - 1885

OBVERSE/ REVERSE VARIETY	DATES FOR WHICH DIE COMBINATIONS ARE KNOWN
Type I/I	1873, 1874, 1875, 1876
Type I/II	1875, 1876
Type II/II	1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885

As mentioned in Issue #69 of the journal, I have created a database of Trade Dollars offered for sale in auction catalogs by Bowers & Merena, Heritage, Stack's and Superior. The sample size for this analysis was 425 coins with only a third of these coins being certified. The following guidelines were followed for this study of proof coins: 1) All Type I and Type II obverse and reverse coins were attributed. When attribution was not possible, coins were designated as variety unknown. 2) Coins were included in the sample only if they were listed in single coin lots. This selection procedure probably biases the sample toward better dates and higher grades. 3) All proof coins were attributed without regard to grade or condition, or whether they were certified or uncertified, cleaned or unimpaired.

The focus of this analysis was to assess the relative rarity and availability of proof Trade Dollars for each year and to make an assessment of the relative rarity of Type I and Type II varieties within each year. Since auctions have a tendency to attract rare dates and high grade examples, this analysis is probably biased toward such coins in that they will appear in the analysis in a slightly higher frequency than would be expected in the overall population of proof Trade Dollars. Chart 1 gives an overview of the results of this analysis. The raw data from which Chart 1 was derived is given in the table at the end of this article.

CHART 1



OBSERVATIONS

1873: The 1873 proof is generally accepted as being one of the scarcest in the series. It comprised almost 6% of the sample population.

1874: The frequency of the 1874 proof was slightly higher than that of the 1873 proof. It comprised approximately 8% of the overall sample. This is a slightly higher frequency than I had expected since it is generally assumed that 1873 and 1874 proofs are about equal in rarity.

1875: The 1875 proof was struck from both the Type I and Type II reverses. This date represented about 6% of the sample for Type I/I and Type I/II combined. Both varieties are rare with the Type I/I variety being almost 6 times as rare as the Type I/II variety in this sample. In his encyclopedia on US dollars, Q. David Bowers concludes that proof examples with the Type I reverse are more plentiful than proof examples with the Type II reverse for this year. The data in my study does not support this position. Perhaps a larger sample of proof coins will more accurately determine the ratio of Type I to Type II coins of this date.

1876: Proof examples of this date represented nearly 8% of the overall sample. Proof 1876 coins were struck in three varieties, Type I/I, Type I/II and Type II/II. The most common proof of this date was the Type I/II variety. The Type I/I proof of this date was the rarest in the entire series with only one example recorded. The Type II/II proof of this date was more than three times rarer than the Type I/II proof. David Bowers reaches similar conclusions in his assessment of the relative rarity of these three varieties in proof condition in his encyclopedia.

1877: The 1877 proof was observed to be only 5% of the overall sample. This date is therefore one of the scarce dates in the proof series.

1878: This date in proof represented approximately 9% of the overall sample. It proved to be one of the more available dates in the proof series.

1879: This date had a frequency of approximately 13% in the overall sample of proof Trade Dollars. This was the second highest frequency in the entire series. It appears that proof Trade Dollars are more available for many of the proof only years than they are for the first five years of the series when business strike coins were also minted.

1880: This date had an observed frequency of approximately 14% of the overall sample, the highest in the series of proof Trade Dollars.

1881: This date comprised approximately 10% of the overall sample of proof Trade Dollars.

1882: This date had an observed frequency of 11% of the overall sample of proof Trade Dollars, the third highest in the series.

1883: This date comprised 8% of the sample of proof Trade Dollars. This is a smaller percentage than in each of the four previous proof only years.

1884: This date represented less than 1% of the overall sample with only 3 coins being auctioned during the last few years. But this is still a high frequency from a proof mintage of 10 coins. The rarity of examples of this year makes this date highly desirable with the ability to command a high price when auctioned.

1885: This date represented less than .5% of the overall sample with only 2 coins being auctioned during the last few years. With a proof mintage of only 5 coins, the 1885 Trade Dollar is an incredibly rare coin and has always commanded a high price when auctioned.

Proof Trade Dollar Sample Data

DATE	TYPE I/I	TYPE I/II	TYPE II/II	UNKNOWN	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
1873	25	.	.	.	25	5.88%
1874	36	.	.	.	36	8.47%
1875	3	17	.	5	25	5.88%
1876	1	17	5	9	32	7.53%
1877	.	.	23	.	23	5.41%
1878	.	.	40	.	40	9.41%
1879	.	.	54	.	54	12.71%
1880	.	.	61	.	61	14.35%
1881	.	.	42	.	42	9.88%
1882	.	.	47	.	47	11.06%
1883	.	.	35	.	35	8.24%
1884	.	.	3	.	3	0.71%
1885	.	.	2	.	2	0.47%
Totals	65	34	312	14	425	100.00%

General Conclusions

The 1884 and 1885 Trade Dollars are incredible rarities and usually available only at auction. Proof examples of the 1875 Type I/I and 1876 Type I/I Trade Dollars are also very rare and difficult to obtain. The most frequently available dates in proof condition appear to be the proof only dates from 1879 to 1882. Although the 1874 Trade Dollar in proof does not appear to be a rare coin, I believe that this date is actually rarer than this sample data would seem to indicate.

I would be interested in corresponding with other club members who may have an opinion on the rarities described. I can be contacted as follows: Joe Kirchgessner, 45 Derby St., Concord, MA 01742.

¤¤¤

SEATED DOLLARS

1842	XF-45, lustre, reverse rim bumps	$145
1844	NGC AU-58, nice original toning	1375
1845	XF-40, original gray toning	390
1845	XF-45	450
1845	PCGS AU-50	695
1846	AU-50	375
1846-O	VF-30, dark original toning	245
1846-O	AU-55	1350
1847	XF-40, old cleaning	185
1848	VF-30, dark toning	390
1848	XF-40, light golden toning	525
1848	AU-50	975
1848	PCGS AU-53, golden toning	1125
1849	VF-35, dark original toning	225
1850	NGC XF-45	990
1850	PCGS AU-50	1675
1850-O	NGC XF-40	1075
1850-O	NGC AU-50	2650
1853	AU-53	900

SEATED DOLLARS

1854	PCGS XF-45	$3200
1855	PCGS AU-50, sharp strike	3475
1858	ANACS Proof-61	5150
1859	PCGS AU-55	1275
1860	AU-50, nice toning	495
1860	PCGS AU-55	675
1861	PCGS MS-60	2550
1863	ANACS AU-55	1250
1864	Proof-55	675
1865	XF-40	450
1866	PCGS XF-45	475
1866	NGC MS-63, rare this nice	2900
1867	PCGS AU-50	825
1867	AU-53, dark toning	700
1868	XF-45	425
1868	NGC AU-50	795
1870	AU-50	425
1872-S	ANACS AU-50	1875

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1842-O	Small Date, PCGS Fine-15, nice original coin	$1100
1843-O	Large O, Good, some light marks, reverse rim ding	100
1845	NGC MS-63, Large 5 over Small 5, scarce in UNC	1150
1847	NGC MS-63, Recut 47, doubled die reverse	1300
1854-O	Huge O, Fine+, cleaned, some reverse porosity	200
1859-S	VF+, cleaned, light obverse repair, some reverse marks	125
1860	PCGS MS-60, PQ, lightly toned	325
1860-S	VG+, old cleaning, some light hairlines on reverse	235
1864	Proof-63, gorgeous untoned blazer	550
1864-S	VG-, original toning, one light obverse mark	450
1865-S	PCGS MS-64, PQ, untoned, ex-Heritage ANA Sale	4500
1866	VG/G, original toning, a couple of tiny rim ticks	325
1867-S	PCGS XF-45, nice, scarce in this grade	700
1869	VG+, a gem original coin, nice	295
1871-S	VG/AG+, nice, no problems, original toning	325
1871-S	PCGS MS-62, gorgeous, PQ	3700
1872-CC	VG/AG+, nice original coin, rare	575
1873	No Arrows, Proof-63, nice original toning	500
1880	VF, medium gray toning, no problems	225
1880	PCGS MS-62, brilliant, semi-prooflike, nice	500
1882	PCGS Proof-63, brilliant, PQ	525
1884	Fine, a choice coin, no problems	250
1884	PCGS MS-63, nice, original toning, scarce	800
1887	AU/UNC, dipped but a gorgeous coin	395
1887	PCGS MS-63, nice, original toning	725
1890	PCGS Proof-63, PQ, untoned, super eye appeal	525
1891	EF-, extra 89 in denticles, cleaned, a scarce variety	100
1891	NGC MS-65, extra 89 in denticles, possible finest known	1100
1891-O	PCGS Fine-12, nice coin, no problems	275
1891-S	PCGS MS-62, brilliant, semi-prooflike	250

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Of Coin Stories - Three Cent Shops and Double Eagle Prizes, Part Two

by

Scott G. Grieb

Part one of this article was published in Issue #69 of the journal and discussed six types of coin stories, short anecdotes in which coins played a role. Coin stories tend to be short because they are usually little more than background information in longer historical discussions. However, numismatists find them interesting because they provide insight into how our predecessors used their circulating coinage.

In part two of this article I would like to discuss one particular trait that people of the 19th century had regarding coins and their denominations. I began to recognize this trait after studying many coin stories. That trait is a figure of speech: people sometimes compared other people or things to a coin denomination or type of money. The higher or lower their opinion, the more or less valuable the denomination or type of money. We still do this today! For example, one announcer on the radio recently remarked that a certain ball player would probably cost some heavy coins, and people still compare things to a plugged nickel. The point is, so many coin denominations and types of money were available during the last century that this trait was more common and much more colorfully used than it is today.

Illustration from *Saloons of the Old West* by Richard Erdoes

Three Cent Shops and Double Eagle Prizes

"Damn these plebians, they don't burn worth a cent - pass out a king!" wrote Mark Twain of the profane engineer on the train to Cairo in 1867. It was satirically reported to him that the train burned 3,000 year old mummies, purchased by the ton from graveyards for fuel. As Twain wrote in his book The Innocents Abroad, it was "stated to me for a fact. I only tell it as I got it. I am willing to believe it. I can believe anything."

It is also an excellent example of equating people or things to coin denominations or types of money. Twain was not alone in this. "I don't go a cent on that" was a common expression of rejection in the Virginia City, Montana diggings of the 1860s indicating that the individual wouldn't even pay a cent for the opinion expressed. Because of the implied low values, sarcastic comments often involved cents or some low valued coin denomination. For example, a newspaper reporter wrote this about the panic which accompanied a run on the Bank of California, August 23, 1875:

> "The men who had the largest interests at stake were the least flurried. Those whose wealth could be counted in cents were by far the most demonstrative."

It was said about one gentleman, "it was safe to predict that he could, without any personal inconvenience, walk off sedately with the weight of his entire deposit paid in silver." This implied that his deposit could have been no more than a few dollars. One thing I have noticed about reading so many 19th century writings: people occasionally used the word penny but normally they used the word cent. Were people in those days more aware that the United States does not mint pennies but cents?

Combining cents with a small coin denomination yielded a choice comment about bankers in Portland, Oregon. In 1867, a Mr. N.P. Perrine attempted to gain financing for his Oregon Central Railway by visiting the Portland banking firm of Ladd and Tilton. His visit did not go well and he left somewhat disappointed. The next Christmas day he had better luck with financier William Ralston of San Francisco. He immediately wrote his partner:

> "Mr. Ralston of the Bank of California informs me today that if I, or we, get into a position where we need help, to call on him - it was his own offer - he says he feels a personal interest in every rail that is laid on the Pacific coast. How unlike the narrow sentiments held by the proprietor of that three-cent shop in Portland!"

Small denominational coins, those worth ten cents or less, were unpopular in the old west. Caustic comments concerning them are common in literature from that part of the world. "The nickel was a nasty little coin." wrote Richard G. Lillard in his 1942 history Desert Challenge, An Interpretation of Nevada. However, use of the word nickel did not always mean that a five cent piece was involved. It often implied pettiness when someone asked for payment of a small sum of money. J. Frank Dobie, who compiled stories of early Texas ranching in his book Cow People, often heard and used the word nickel in this way. One story was about Dan Waggoner, a rancher who had some stray horses returned by cowboys from a nearby ranch. They brought them in, staked them up and began to fix themselves lunch beside Dan's water tank. Then they asked if they might have a few of the shallots (green onions) growing in Dan's garden "to flavor their dried beef. Mr. Waggoner hesitated a second, then said, 'Pull up a few'. They helped themselves, ate dinner and were saddling up to leave when Mr. Waggoner came out. 'I guess I'll have to charge a nickel for the shallots',

he said. They paid it. That was the last time they or any man to whose ears the story came picked up a stray horse for Dan Waggoner."

Another story from Dobie has one rancher ribbing another. "Everybody knows you could throw a hundred dollars into a garbage can and not miss it more than a nickel dropped into a cow pen!"

We still use the word nickel in this way. When one guy at work became impatient with another individual he said to him " just pay your nickel and get on with it!"

A half step up from the nickel was the half dime. Richard G. Lillard called the half dime a half brother to arsenic. Harris Newmark, a Los Angeles pioneer, wrote that half dimes were never popular but that he saw them occasionally. During the 1880s, Bill Nye, a popular humorist, wrote an essay entitled The Silver Dollar. This essay doesn't discuss the silver dollar very much but one portion is useful to us:

> " there are worse calamities than the silver dollar. Other things may occur in our lives, which, in the way of sadness and three-cornered gloom, make the large robust dollar look like an old-fashioned half-dime."

This was a relatively positive comment concerning the half dime. Nye simply used it to indicate something as being relatively small or slight.

In his book Roughing It, Mark Twain recounted a classic story concerning half dimes. While heading west for Carson City in 1861, he stopped off in Salt Lake City:

> "A young half-breed with a complexion like a yellow-jacket asked me if I would have my boots blacked. I said yes, and he blacked them. Then I handed him a silver five-cent piece, with the benevolent air of a person who is conferring wealth and blessedness upon poverty and suffering. The yellow-jacket took it with what I judged to be suppressed emotion, and laid it reverently down in the middle of his broad hand. Then he began to contemplate it, much as a philosopher contemplates a gnat's ear in the ample field of his microscope. Several mountaineers, teamsters, stage-drivers, etc., drew near and dropped into the tableau and fell to surveying the money with that attractive indifference to formality which is noticeable in the hardy pioneer. Presently the yellow-jacket handed the half-dime back to me and told me I ought to keep my money in my pocket-book instead of in my soul, and then I wouldn't get it cramped and shriveled up so!"

So Twain's soul would shrink money and the half dime was proof! More likely his failure was that he had not paid the local lowest common currency. In Salt Lake City, at that time, the lowest common currency was a quarter and that is probably what was expected. By coincidence, a book by George Devol, a Mississippi gambler, mentioned blacking boots. About 1840, when Devol was a young riverboat crew member, he "would get up early in the morning and make some 'five-cent pieces' by blacking boots." So precedence was on Twain's side. Did he merely pay the price common to the riverboats he knew so well?

The concept of the lowest common currency seems to have been forgotten. I have found several references to it. One of these relates to the theme of this article. In 1865, Samuel Bowles, a traveling reporter, discussed the coinage in San Francisco:

> "nothing is sold for less than two bits; and a fifty-cent piece is the lowest coin that it is respectable to carry, or throw to the man who waters your horse. At the best hotels, the Occidental and Cosmopolitan, the price is three dollars a day in gold, which is cheaper than the four dollars and a half currency charged by the fashionable hotels of Boston and New York. A drink at an

aristocratic San Francisco bar is two bits; at a more democratic establishment one bit. There is no coin in use less than a dime; one of these answers as a bit; two of them will pass for two bits, or twenty-five cents; but the man who often offers two dimes for a quarter of a dollar is voted a bummer."

The term bummer was common in the old gold rush west. It originally meant someone who was cheap or always looking for a handout. One popularized stray dog of the 1860s was even named Bummer by the San Francisco newspapers. In later years the term identified the lowest class of saloon regulars. It also evolved into a sobriquet for forty-niners who sometimes referred to themselves as bummers when feeling nostalgic.

Dimes were usually accepted throughout the country. Sometimes quarters were the lowest common currency, but dimes usually had purchasing power, especially if two were allowed to pass as a quarter. Fine cigars cost a dime. However, things which only cost one dime were often seen as substandard or low class. Phrases such as "my last dime" are common in writings of the 19th century.

We have all heard of dime novels. Most really did cost a dime and even in the 1800s they were considered cheap. They were the supermarket tabloids of their day. Joaquin Miller, the outlandish author known as the "Poet of the Sierras" reveled in playing the frontiersman. Reports of his poetry recitals almost always included details of whatever outfit he was wearing. This was too much for many of his fellow authors. Ambrose Bierce finally had to remark "he rewrites his life from reading dime novels."

When Cole and Jim Younger, of Jesse James and Northfield fame, were pardoned in 1901, one condition for their release was prohibition from exhibiting themselves in "any dime museum." This was biting since admission to most private museums was a quarter. Dime museums were viewed as low class. Even P.T. Barnum charged a quarter as far back as the 1840s.

George Devol, the Mississippi gambler, was once asked by a brash young card sharp if he would like to play poker. He feigned ignorance of the game but agreed, if the ante was ten cents. This tagged Devol as an easy mark since poker antes were usually a quarter. Play began. The sharper clumsily stacked the deck and won a few hands. But soon, enough was enough. Palming all four fives as they came to him, Devol waited until he received three jacks while the sharper dealt himself a better hand. The betting became lively. Palming the jacks back to the deck, Devol showed the fives when called. That broke the sharper, who pulled a knife and exclaimed "that is not the hand you had!". Devol raised his pistol to the sharper's knife and also made him apologize for being a cheat.

I recently picked up an accounting training book, the Memoranda of Business Practice (1897), which describes savings banks as:

> "institutions organized not for the convenience of the business man but for the benefit of the poor. They are to enable the latter class by combining their nickels and dimes to aggregate such a sum that it can be loaned to good advantage." "These institutions bring into circulation the few dollars that are usually hoarded away by the poor."

The example given by the book? It was the Dime Savings Bank. Oddly enough, there really was a Dime Savings Bank. I have found reference to it in San Francisco and Chicago but do not yet know anything else about it.

Quarters were accepted everywhere in the United States but comments regarding them could be either positive or negative. They were sometimes referred to as two-

bit pieces and the phrase two-bits was often invoked when something was seen as cheap. Comments similar to "the two-bit privilege of sleeping on the beaten dirt" or "two-bit restaurants" where you could get "a sort of lunch, not a square meal" were common.

I found one positive reference to a very early Los Angeles two-bit restaurant where a good, substantial meal was reportedly served. Then there was the cattleman who described Dodge City, Kansas as "the grass is fine, the water plenty, drinks two for a quarter - and no grangers!" What else could you ask for at the end of a long cattle drive?

Fifty-cent pieces were working coins of the 19th century and many references to their use can be found. Before the Civil War silver was so plentiful in New Orleans that an acquaintance of George Devol regularly bought $105 in silver half dollars for $100 in state bank notes. He then used it dollar for dollar to pay off the local hucksters and the steamboat men who, in turn, used it to pay their deck hands.

In another story J. Frank Dobie wrote about Shanghai Pierce, an early Texas cowman who in 1853 was hired by W.B. Grimes of Matagorda Bay at fifty cents a day. One day Grimes ordered a prize slave to break a terror of a horse. Things were going badly, with much squallering and hollering, when Grimes' wife heard the commotion and came storming out of the house. She called off the slave and ranted at Grimes:

> "He's worth a good eighteen hundred dollars! What do you mean by letting him ride pitching horses when you got a Yankee here working for four bits a day that could take the risk just as well!"

The earliest known illustration of a jazz band shows musicians employed to attract customers coming out of Basin Street to Robinson's Dime Museum. From Storyville, New Orleans by Al Rose, University of Alabama Press, University, Alabama, 1974.

Grimes considered this and from then on Shanghai broke the horses and took the risks.

The dollar is the basis for our currency and the word dollar was used frequently in the 19th century as it is today. Even then, when there were many coins valued at a dollar or more, it was mostly used figuratively and not in reference to any specific coin. Phrases such as "risked the whole value of a dollar", "bottom dollar" or "earned his dollar" are found in many narratives. The notorious miser, Hetty Green, mother of Colonel E.H.R. Green of 1913 Liberty nickel fame, wrote this pointed note to her daughter:

> "I've found out something about the young man who has been waiting on you in Newport, Sylvia. I find that your young man is very nice and proper, but if it wasn't for his father, the world wouldn't know a thing about him. He has never earned a dollar and doesn't know the value of money. I want to say right here and now that you will never marry a society man with my consent."

Reference to the dollar could be positive. The Girl In The Dollar Store was a popular song in post Civil War San Francisco and then there was the "dollar side of Broadway" or even the "dollar side of Wall Street".

A reference to quantities greater than one dollar were often used to impress people or to make a point. John Dougherty, a gambler, "looked with disdain upon any coin or bill of less than five dollars and paid for a drink, a cigar, or a shave with a five dollar bill, refusing change", and Brigham Young, the Mormon leader, is reported to have complained of the Whiskey street lawyers who for "five dollars would attempt to make a lie into a truth."

Specific references to gold coins can also be found. In 1886, Harris Newmark of Los Angeles was acting as the executor of a will when the dead man's brother arrived:

> "I found him to be an uncouth, ignorant fellow and a man who had probably never handled a ten-dollar gold piece or its equivalent in his life."

Recently, I found a 20th century comment similar to the above quote. In her 1946 memoirs, My San Francisco, Gertrude Atherton noted that after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake:

> "Hundreds of men who had never caressed a twenty-dollar bill, when the insurance companies met their obligations, were so excited at finding themselves possessed of anywhere from $1,000 to $5,000 in hard cash that they indulged in every kind of extravagance the conditions permitted and soon got rid of their sudden wealth."

The twenty dollar gold piece was king during the 19th century. If you dreamed of wealth or wanted to make a point, then these large valuable coins were just the thing. "Double-eagle prizes" were offered at greased pig races in late 1860s San Francisco. A few years later $100,000 in gold was advertised as the Capital Prize in the great Mercantile Library Enterprise of San Francisco. News reporter Benny Taylor got excited and immediately paid out $5.65 in silver for a ticket. Benny carefully laid the ticket away in a box which contained a gold half dollar, a broken ring and other treasures. He then told about a discussion he had with his wife, Lucy:

> "Along in the evening Lucy and I had a little discussion as to whether we should not take the prize in gold, say double eagles, and put them all

to roost on the dining room table, and call in a few friends to see the golden aviary with its blessed birds of paradise."

Of course, Benny did not win. But it made a good column!

A few dollars given as a condolence was common among gamblers. The winner would often provide a meal, train fare or cover for some immediate need of the loser. An example comes from 1898 Alaska where Sam Bonnifield, a Yukon gambler, was challenged by a Montana gambler named Al Mitchell:

> "After several inconsequential hands, Mitchell suddenly tried to throw his opponent off balance with a massive raise. Bonnifield murmured that it was getting a little chilly in the room and unconcernedly turned and asked the porter to stoke the fire in the stove. Then directing his attention once more to the game, he called the raise without a word. Two and a half hours later Mitchell called his last bet and was down to the cloth. Bonnifield flipped him a twenty-dollar gold piece to buy his breakfast."

A very generous gift to cover breakfast! Perhaps Bonnifield was acknowledging Mitchell's sportsmanship, but then he could have been showing off. Such behavior was not unknown to him. At another time, when Bonnifield had lost five thousand dollars to Goldie Golden, a friendly rival, he called to the cashier, "if Goldie is quitting, pay him off. Five thousand dollars comes to a little over nineteen pounds and a half in dust. Oh, hell, give him an even twenty!"

Because of its high value, a twenty dollar gold piece could convey status, or it could convey a signal. Ever since I read this next story I have been mystified, probably just as much as the man who recounted it to J. Frank Dobie.

Earle Butler was a rancher's son in the Oklahoma Territory. His father was gone for a few days when two men on splendid bay horses, with saddles and clothes to match, rode up to the house. They apologized for the intrusion, said they knew that father was away shipping cattle, and politely asked for something to eat. Earle's mother fed them. Afterwards, one man laid a twenty-dollar gold piece on the table. Earle's mother returned it saying "we don't take money for food. My husband would not like for me to take it. Any rider who stops at our house is always welcome." The man bowed gravely and repocketed the coin. Then they rode off.

The next day a sheriff with five deputies arrived. Earle's mother fed them, too. The two men were described and the sheriff asked if they had been seen. "We have not seen anyone" was her matter of fact reply. Confused, Earle later asked his mother about the two men who had been at the ranch just the day before. "Yes, I know, son, but I am your father's wife. I do not have time to be sheriff, also."

How did Earle's mother know to deny she had seen the men? Her words imply earlier discussions with her husband. Did he explain that two outlaws would stop in while he was away, and she was to help them? That does not seem plausible. More likely there was an understanding that when he sent someone in need, that someone would prove himself by showing a token. A twenty-dollar gold piece was not likely to be offered by just anyone. Also, there was probably some other action by the men which proved that the gold piece was not a serendipitous offer. Her refusal may have verified her help. Proof that Earle's father knew the men was given the next spring when they helped with round-up. They remained aloof, camped alone, refused pay and rode away forever. Earle never learned who they were.

"I must not forget to mention the reckless use of money and the custom, at first

quite astounding to me, of throwing coins - often large, shining slugs - upon the stage or floor, if an actor or actress particularly pleased the spendthrift patron." wrote Harris Newmark of Los Angeles. References to throwing coins, gold or even silver bricks to commend stage performers are very common in 19th century writings. Lotta Crabtree, who grew up with the California gold rush, and later became America's top comedienne, made her stage debut in 1855 at the age of eight in Rabbit Creek. The stage was showered with dollars, Mexican pesos, gold nuggets, sacks of gold dust, and one octagonal $50 gold slug.

Comments regarding paper money are common in the literature of the 19th century. In some areas of the country it was readily accepted. This was due to necessity when coin was short, or due to its being light and convenient, provided the banks were solvent. Among collectors it is usually believed that people in the eastern United States accepted paper money while those in the west abhorred it. The truth lies somewhere in between. One sentence from a letter written in 1875 from the Washington Territory is curious. "Here for the first time since I left Pittsburgh I found

Remains of the first transcontinental railroad right-of-way just west of Promontory, Utah where the Golden Spike was driven on May 10, 1869 marking the completion of that railroad. In August 1869 Mary McNair Mathews traveled this railroad clutching 25 cents in paper scrip which no one out west would accept. The sign commemorates 10 miles and 56 feet of track laid on a single day by a Chinese/Irish crew.

bank notes would not go except at a discount" wrote William H. Kennedy, an emigrant to the Pacific northwest. Gold and silver were the currency of the Washington Territory. What is curious is that he passed through many frontier territories, such as Montana, without being discounted.

Then there was the story about Mary McNair Mathews. In August 1869 she left her home in New York and rode the transcontinental railroad out to Reno, Nevada. Upon arrival she was short of money for the stage to Virginia City and was trying to negotiate with the agent when:

> "I gave him the last $1.25. He threw back the 25 cents, saying he did not want such money as that. It was 25 cents in scrip."

Another passenger helped her pay the fare. The post office in Virginia City also refused it. This was the only money she had. She was not going to toss it out! So, using her last two stamps she posted a letter and mailed the scrip back to "where paper money was appreciated." Then she turned, without a cent, to find work to support herself and her young son.

A final quote to finish this article comes from Mark Twain giving advice to a "Professional Beggar":

> "No; you are not obliged to take greenbacks at par."

Simple and elegant, from the master.

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An Exciting New Variety for the 1845 Half Dime

by

Bill Fivaz

One of the most exhilarating aspects of numismatics and variety collecting is the thrill of finding a major new die variety, especially in a series that has been extensively researched. Just such an opportunity recently occurred for me at a show in Atlanta. While searching through a box of mixed coins at the show, I came upon a nice 1845 half dime in an AU grade. At first I thought that I might have an example of a variety with a strongly repunched date, but examination with a glass showed an extra 8 and 4 dramatically punched into the rock base. This dramatically repunched date reminds me of the well known 1844-O half dollar with an extra date punched well up into the rock base.

As shown in the photograph, an extra 8 and 4 are clearly visible above the date and extend well up into the rock base. There is also a lot of raised metal between the last three digits in the date, probably a result of the mint's attempt to lap out the remains of the extra digits. The extra 8 is the more distinct of the two repunched digits, being extremely clear in the space between the top of the 8 in the date and the rock base. The extra 4 is clear in the field between the top of the 4 in the date and the rock base but it is not as strong as the extra 8. This coin represents a very early die state specimen of this variety with two sharp extra digits in the field. This variety is undoubtedly very rare as this coin is the only example of this variety that has surfaced in many years of research on the half dime series.

1845 Half Dime with Extra 84 Repunched to the North

The drapery, head and stars are all fully struck on the obverse of this coin, but there is a light die crack on the reverse. This crack runs at a diagonal from the right serif of the left foot of the A in HALF down to the left edge of the right upright of the M in DIME.

I would be interested in hearing from anyone who owns an example of this variety. I can be reached as follows: Bill Fivaz, P.O. Box 888660, Dunwoody, Georgia 30356-0660. I can be reached by telephone at (770) 396-6125.

Reverse Crack on 1845 Half Dime with Extra 84 Above Date

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Buy or bid on my latest group of new purchases. My last list was quite successful with several people getting a number of coins at their price. I hope to hear from you soon.

HALF DIMES

1847	Ch.AU NGC-55, hidden mark	$89
1858	XF ANACS-45, doubled date, some luster	210
1862	UNC ANACS-62, deeply toned	125
1864	AG-G, severe pliers pinch at 9 o'clock	149

DIMES

1840-O	VG-F, Small o, old cleaning	$13
1841	XF, nice two tone gray	42
1842	F+, old cleaning, retoned	13
1845	VF-XF, old cleaning, retoning	20
1845	XF, mottled toning	33
1851	Ch.XF, old cleaning, retoned, sharp	33
1851-O	VG, original, a few small obv. marks	15
1852-O	VF-XF, deep gray, sharp	90
1853	NA, Fine, deep gray, faint obv. scratches	95
1855	VG+, nice gray	10
1858-S	F-VF, medium gray, sharp	215
1862-S	VF-XF, original, hidden rev. scrape	85
1863-S	AG, clear date, some older marks	16
1866-S	F, rough surfaces, bent, GR-103	20
1870-S	Ch.VF, medium gray, a few obv. marks	375
1873-S	G-VG, cleaned, retoned, full rims	10
1875-CC	VF-XF, CC in wreath, nice gray	25
1876-CC	F, doubled die obv, original	35
1876-CC	VF-XF, nice gray	15
1877-CC	F, original, light gray	11
1877-CC	VF-XF, medium gray, sharp	15
1877-CC	XF, light russet toning	29
1877-S	G/AG, just wear	4

TWENTY CENT PIECES

1875	F-VF, old cleaning, retoned, a few marks	$75
1875-CC	F, choice original, two tone gray	78

QUARTERS

1838	G, album toning, a few digs	$12
1838	VG, old cleaning, retoning	16
1838	VF, cleaned, retoning	62
1838	VF, light original gray	70
1839	F-VF, extra long claws, rev. scratch	40
1839	VF, original gray, a few old marks	60
1840-O	VG, With Drapery, Small o, cleaned	30
1841-O	Abt F, nice light gray	25
1841-O	VF, old cleaning, retoning	60
1843	Ch.AU, dipped, still lustrous	160
1844	VG-F, medium gray, rough surfaces	13
1844	F, nice light gray	25
1844	Ch.VF, light gray	45

QUARTERS

1844-O	VG, medium gray, rev. scratch	$10
1845	F, medium gray, several rim cuts	13
1845	F, light gray, a few marks	19
1845	Ch.VF, mottled toning	45
1847	F-VF, cleaned, retoned, tiny rim bump	24
1847-O	F, cleaned, retoning	40
1850-O	F, deep gray, dark area on reverse	44
1853	VF, A&R, Briggs 5-E, reverse cud	40
1855-S	AG, partial date	15
1858-S	G, light gray, some rim wear	45
1866	AG, light gray, some old rev. marks	225
1869	F-VF, crease on each side, presentable	195
1875-CC	G/AG, cleaned, retoning	37
1877-CC	F, repunched 77, Briggs 2-B	25
1881	VF, a few severe hits, light damage	120
1884	VF, medium gray	310
1888	VG, original, an old rev. scratch	190
1891-O	VG/G, cleaned, retoned, weak rim	95

HALF DOLLARS

1839	F+, ND, album toning	$125
1842-O	AG, smooth wear	8
1847	XF, old cleaning, retoning	78
1849	VG-F, old cleaning, nicely retoned	40
1850-O	AU, original, initials in obv. field	42
1855-S	VF, moderately porous surfaces	450
1860	VF-XF, old cleaning, retoned, Type 1 rev.	60
1860	XF-AU, bold strike, Type 2 rev.	110
1861-O	AG-G, deep original toning	9
1863	VG, old cleaning, ablum toning	33
1873-CC	XF, WA, several small hits cause slight bend	300
1874-S	G, old cleaning, Small s	29
1876-CC	AG-G, light gray, Medium CC	10
1878-CC	Fair, about half of date showing	140
1881	G+, deep original gray, several scratches	135
1891	AG, original toning	23

SEATED DOLLARS

1845	VG, medium gray, a few digs	$140
1850-O	G+, attempted hole, several scratches	95
1859-S	VG, holed & plugged, a bit discolored	110

TRADE DOLLARS

1874-CC	AG, Potty Dollar	$99
1875-CC	F-VF, large solder spot on reverse	60

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Encapsulated Coins May Continue to Tone While in Their Holders

by

Weimar W. White

Collectors should know that coins may continue to oxidize and show an increase in tarnish levels while stored in their slabs. Last year Coin World commissioned an experiment by this writer to demonstrate that slabs may not be airtight and that coins may continue to tone after encapsulation. There had been reports from collectors that some of their slabbed coins were changing color during storage.

The Experiment

Coin World purchased at random three white or untoned Morgan and Peace dollars encapsulated by NGC, ANACS and PCGS. They took close up pictures of the three coins and shipped them to me for exposure to hydrogen sulfide gas. This gas is known to be in urban indoor air in concentrations ranging from 0.1 to 10 parts per billion.

In order to show that H_2S can find its way into a holder of a slabbed coin, I devised an accelerated test to prove this point. The three slabbed coins sent by Coin World were placed into separate Hefty One Zip Multi-Purpose Storage Bags. Three small aluminum dishes were then employed. Into each dish I placed 26.2 milligrams of sodium sulfide nanohydrate. Next, 3.3 milliliters of distilled water and 1.7 milliliters of 5 percent household vinegar were added to each dish. The dishes were then quickly placed into the Hefty Bags with the slabbed coins and each bag was zipped to keep the hydrogen sulfide gas inside the bag.

Nothing further was done to the bags containing the slabs. During the experiment I noticed that one of the encapsulated silver dollars had toned mostly blue with traces of red and a deep golden color on the devices. This coin was removed from the H_2S environment in just two hours. The other two silver dollars showed yellow or golden toning in 48 hours and were removed from their Zip Multi-Purpose Storage Bags. The slabs were carefully packaged and sent back to Coin World for photographing.

Coin World shared their findings with the grading services and two additional white slabbed silver dollars were sent to me in newer PCGS and NGC designed holders. These two coins were given the same H_2S exposure test and they too showed evidence of toning after 250 hours. These two coins were also returned to Coin World. All five coins, before and after toning, were showcased in an article that appeared in Coin World on July 8, 1996.

Some After Thoughts

Slabbed coins can tone over time if exposed to hydrogen sulfide, especially if their plastic case is not airtight. Some holders are more airtight than others as demonstrated by the fact that one silver dollar was deeply toned after just two hours in the experimental environment. For the newer redesigned holders, it took 250 hours of H_2S exposure for the coins to show evidence of toning.

The encapsulation of coins still serves as a deterrent to the toning process in contrast to those coins which have no holders to protect them from ubiquitous

hydrogen sulfide. The following technique is suggested to test the relative air tightness of a holder. Place your mouth against the holder and see if you can suck or blow air through the seam or edge of the case. If the case is not airtight, it is likely that the coin inside the holder will eventually tone. This is important information for the collector who wants to keep his coins in a state of original purity over a period of years.

The reader should also know that tarnish can potentially come from two additional sources. A coin can tarnish from sulfur materials on the surface of the coin prior to encapsulation and from sulfur materials that may be components of the holder itself. This article has only addressed the tarnishing of coins from sulfur gases outside the holder that find their way into the case.

Literature

1. Coin World, Volume 37, Issue #1891, July 8, 1996.
2. Coin World, Volume 37, Issue #1899, September 2, 1996.

Overlooked Misplaced Dates

Many misplaced dates on the obverse of Liberty Seated coins are overlooked because collectors do not look carefully enough at extra marks on the drapery folds in the gown or at extra marks that connect the denticles below the date. A few other misplaced dates are overlooked because the coin contains another dramatic feature that greatly overshadows the collector's attention when examining the coin.

An example of such a coin would be the 1873 Liberty Seated dime with the doubled die obverse. The doubling on this variety is very dramatic, making it one of the most important doubled die varieties of the 19th century. An XF example of this variety can sell for over $1000. It is a highly sought after variety with about 20 specimens currently known. But how many collectors have checked examples of this variety for stray digits in the gown or denticles?

In his new book on misplaced dates, Kevin Flynn reports that an extra 3 has been found in the denticles below the date on his variety. The extra digit appears entirely within the denticles below the 3 in the date but it can be seen in two sequential gaps between denticles. The contour of the segments of this extra digit match the shape of a 3. Furthermore, the denticles around this extra digit show signs of damage caused by the punching of the extra date.

This example shows that misplaced dates can turn up even on obverse dies that have other dramatic features. Patience and continued research can lead to important discoveries as demonstrated by this interesting variety.

The Editor

Liberty Seated Half Dollars for Sale or Trade

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HALF DOLLARS

1840	Doubled date, WB-104, F-12	$45
1840	Small letters, recut 8, unlisted, XF-42	98
1841	Recut 1, WB-102, MS-61, semi-prooflike	1450
1842	Small date, reverse cud, WB-102, XF-40	150
1842	Triple date, WB-105, XF45/40	135
1842	Misplaced 8, WB-106, AU-58, prooflike	325
1843	Center dot, WB-104, XF-45+	159
1843	Triple date, unlisted XF-40, cleaned	149
1845	MS-60, small cuds under date	675
1845	Recut 1, unlisted, VF-30, small cud	129
1845-O	Triple date, WB-106, VF30/35	425
1846	6 over horizontal 6, WB-104, AU-53	975
1846-O	WB-101, no drapery, AU-55+	285
1847	Recut 47, WB-104, XF-40	115
1847-O	Doubled obv, WB-104, VF20/25	79
1849	Doubled date, WB-103, MS-63	1675
1850	Recut 0, WB-102, PCGS AU-55	895
1852	Recut 2, MS-63, reverse rim cuds	2250
1853	AU-50, heavy obverse cracks	295
1853	Doubled die rev, XF45/40	475
1855	855/854, WB-102, MS-60, full white	2250
1855-O	O over horizontal O, WB-102, XF-40	189
1856-O	Doubled date, WB-102, MS-60, luster	650
1856-O	Recut 6, WB-104, AU-53	175
1857	Date in rock, WB-102, XF-45	140
1858	Type 2 rev, WB-110, XF-40+, tiny scratch	89
1858	Recut 18, WB-106, AU-50, sharp	169
1858	Misplaced 85 in denticles, WB-109, XF-42	375
1858-O	Misplaced 18 in rock, WB-104, AU-50	119

HALF DOLLARS

1858-O	WB-106, AU-53, second marriage	$139
1858-O	Misplaced 1 in shield, AU-53, unlisted	225
1858-S	Misplaced 8 in rock, WB-103, VF30/XF40	145
1859	Type 2 rev, WB-102, AU-55, luster	275
1860	Type 1 rev, WB-101, XF-40	95
1860-O	Recut mintmark, WB-105, AU-53	225
1860-S	Medium S, WB-102, AU-53	275
1861	Recut date, WB-102, AU-50, rare	325
1861-O	Repunched 1, unlisted, MS-60	425
1865	Doubled date, WB-102, XF-45	475
1865	Doubled date, WB-102, AU-55+	1900
1865-S	Small wide broken s, WB-101, AU-55	189
1866	Digits in denticles, VF-25, unlisted	109
1868	Recut 1, unlisted, AU-53	295
1868-S	Extra 8 in denticles, AU-50, toning	159
1869	Recut 1, WB-102, MS-61, full white	395
1870	Recut 1, WB-102, AU-53	250
1871	Recut 18, WB-103, MS-60-	325
1871-S	No Drapery, WB-103, XF-48	189
1872-S	Small wide s, WB-101, F15/VF30	75
1873	187 in denticles, WB-103, XF40/45	149
1873	Quad-stripes, WB-109, XF-40/45	375
1874	Short arrows, WB-101, Proof-61	850
1874	Large arrows, WB-102, Proof-61	1275
1874-S	Minute s, WB-103, XF-40, lightly brushed	350
1874-CC	Railroad track rev, WB-102, AG-3+	325
1875-S	Small wide s, WB-104, AU-53, scarce	249
1876	Center dot obv, VF-35, unlisted	95
1876	Partial C in neck, Proof-62, unlisted	725
1876-CC	8 in denticles, recut 8, XF-40	150
1877-S	Triple S, WB-103, AU-50	295
1877-S	Digit in denticles right of date, AU-53	275

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Another 1839 Very Long Claws Quarter Discovered

by

Larry O'Neil

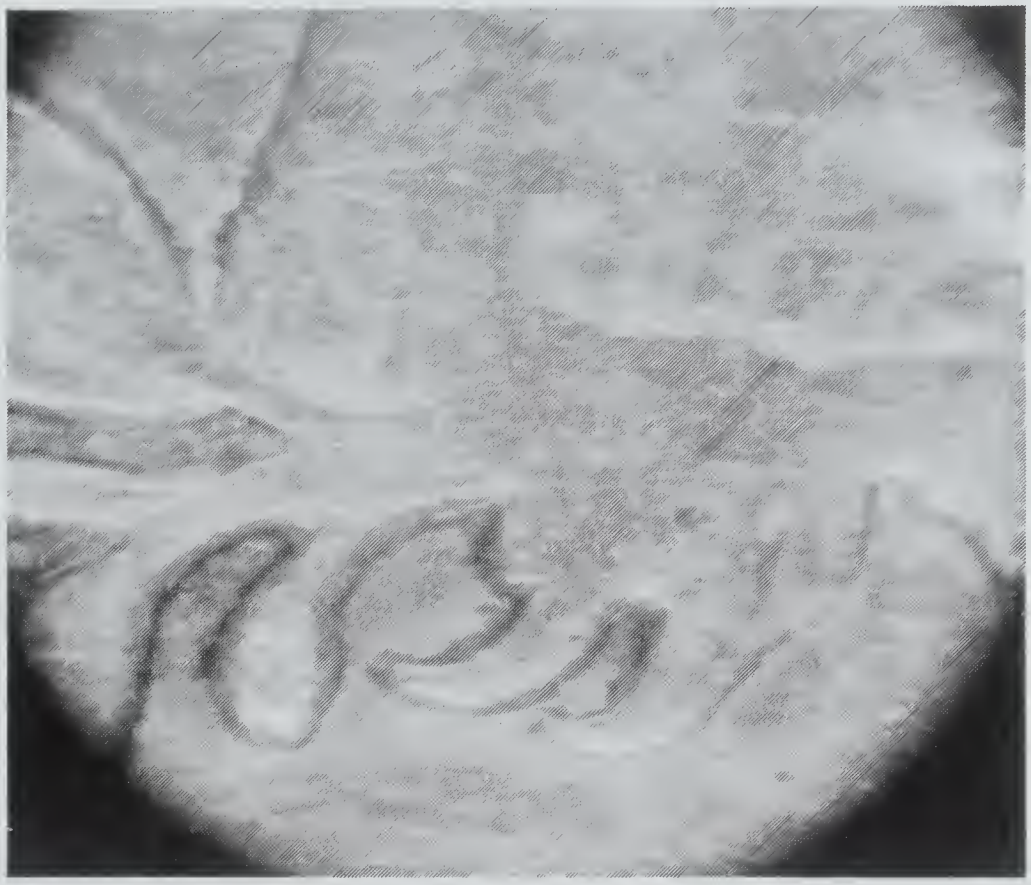
Larry Briggs described an 1839 quarter with very long claws in his encyclopedia of Liberty Seated quarters published in 1991. He indicated that the variety was first identified by Harry Smith in 1989 and that it was presently very rare. David Hensley found another example of this variety and described it in Issue #57 of the journal. Both individuals identified the very long claws as the key feature of this new variety. I wish to report that another example of this variety has surfaced in Florida and that it has been slabbed by ANACS with the notation "EF Details Net VF-30 1839 25c Briggs 4-C Cleaned". The surfaces on this coin seem to be sharper than those illustrated in the pictures of the other two coins.

This coin has the same curved date with the 9 slightly tilted to the right. But the 9 on this coin shows evidence of being recut on the outside left edge of the upper loop and on the inside of the knob of this digit. There is no raised dot above the 10th star because this coin has an obverse dig at that location. The head is flat and the stars are not struck up. The 4th, 6th and 7th stars have no centrils.

On the reverse the very long claws are curved to the left. The letters in the legend are thick and the base of the I in UNITED has an upward tilt on the top outer edges.

Date on 1839 Very Long Claws Quarter

This feature makes the I seem thicker than this same letter on the open claws and closed claws varieties. The eagle's tongue is very clear. The surfaces of the coin are a pleasant medium gray.



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Only 300 softbound copies of my new book on Misplaced Dates remain from an original printing of 1000 copies. This book contains 512 pages of information on misplaced dates including over 2000 photographs with a listing for over 400 MPD varieties. Misplaced dates have been identified on all series of United States coins between 1842 and 1908 except for three cent silver pieces. Each listing for an MPD variety will include an obverse and reverse photograph, a close up of the MPD, a rarity listing, detailed diagnostics of the variety, a premium factor for each variety, die counts when known and much more.

The first 100 pages of the book contains a survey of different theories on how MPD varieties might have been made. The book includes MPD variety listings for 180 Indian cents, 10 two cent pieces, 11 three cent nickel pieces, 12 Shield nickels, 2 Liberty Head nickels, 11 Liberty Seated half dimes, 33 Liberty Seated dimes, 19 Barber dimes, 6 Liberty Seated twenty cent pieces, 17 Liberty Seated quarters, 8 Barber quarters, 52 Liberty Seated half dollars, 6 Liberty Seated dollars, 1 Trade Dollar, 19 Morgan dollars and 7 gold coins.

The price for a copy of this softbound book is $54.95. Hardbound copies can be purchased for $95.00. Please add $5.00 for postage and handling. Send your check or money order for a copy of this new volume to: Kevin Flynn, P.O. Box 538, Rancocas, New Jersey 08073.

I am currently working on three quick reference books that can be used at shows to identify important die varieties. One of these books will be a Quick Reference to Top Misplaced Date varieties and list over 100 MPD varieties that are actively pursued by variety collectors. This book will contain hundreds of photographs for easy identification of each variety. For each variety there will be a pricing by grade, a rarity listing, information on premium factors, a complete description and identification of important diagnostics. The book will contain 144 pages in a 4 inch by 5 inch format that will be practical to carry around at shows to search out important varieties. The book will have a spiral binding for easy use by the collector. I expect this book to be out by Christmas. Retail price for this Quick Reference will be $24.95. Prepublication price until Christmas will be $14.95 plus $3.00 for shipping. Send orders or requests for further information to Kevin Flynn, P.O. Box 538, Rancocas, New Jersey 08073.

◆

An Unusual 1860 Half Dollar

by

Dave Schaefer

Recently I took a closer look at an 1860 half dollar in a brilliant choice AU grade that I have owned for some time. This coin has the Type I reverse and is strongly struck. A close examination of the reverse shield shows that all of the vertical lines in the shield extend up through the valley between the first two horizontal stripes with several of these lines extending up much further. I seem to recall that extended vertical shield lines in the half dollar series are limited basically to the coinage of the 1840s. I believe that it is very unusual for a half dollar of this date to show such strong evidence of extended shield lines.

I would be interested to know if other club members have observed half dollars of 1860 with extended vertical shield lines. I would expect that coins of this period with extended shield lines would be limited to pieces with the Type I reverse.

I would like to thank Dick Osburn for the picture of my 1860 half dollar that is presented with this article. His photography has been very helpful in documenting key features of many Liberty Seated coins.

Extended Vertical Shield Lines on 1860 Half Dollar

An 1877-S Trade Dollar With a Repunched 7

by

Ray Lathrop

For some unexplained reason there seems to be an unusually high number of repunched date varieties across many denominations for the year 1877. I would like to add to this list by describing a previously unreported Trade Dollar of this year with the second 7 in the date repunched. This repunched date occurs on an 1877-S Trade Dollar with a Type 2L obverse. There are four fingers on the hand holding the olive branch with a small protrusion on the index finger of the other hand. The top of the right ribbon tip above the date is not doubled and the ribbon tips below the L in LIBERTY point down toward the date.

The doubling on the second 7 in the date shows below the flag of the 7 and below the upright of this digit. The date on this coin is positioned closer to the ribbon than the denticles and it slopes slightly down to the right. The right edge of the upright of the 1 is in line with the right side of the G in GOD while the right edge of the second 7 is below the space between US in TRUST.

This coin has the Type 2L reverse with two smooth tail feathers blending down the back of the tail and without the berry under the eagle's claw. This variety has the Medium S mintmark, with the mintmark positioned slightly closer to the D in DOLLAR than to the S in GRAINS.

1877-S Trade Dollar with Repunched Second 7

I would like to take this opportunity to thank F. Michael Fazzari for his articles on the hub varieties of Trade Dollars that appeared in Issues #61 and #63 of the journal. His articles provided valuable information for collectors interested in studying coins in the Trade Dollar series.

The photographs of my 1877-S Trade Dollar were taken by Tom Mulvaney for presentation with this article in the journal.

Reverse of 1877-S Trade Dollar with Repunched Second 7 in Date

~•~•~

A PCGS Population Report for Liberty Seated Dollars

by

Joe Trezza

Recently I joined the PCGS Collector Club and received the "PCGS Population Report" as one of my membership privileges. I would like to share some of the information provided in this population report on Liberty Seated dollars with other LSCC members. I believe that this report provides some valuable information for determining rarity factors when making comparisons between dates in the Seated dollar series. All figures presented are for coins certified as of July 1997.

I have prepared two tables which provide a summary of the information on Liberty Seated dollars. Table 1 contains a listing of all business strike Liberty Seated dollars certified by PCGS plus the proof examples for 1858. Proof examples of this proof only date were included in the table because an example of this date in proof condition would be necessary to complete a date set of Seated dollars. I then ranked the dates by the number of pieces certified by PCGS and recorded the listing by date in the

Table 1

PCGS Certified Liberty Seated Dollars by Date

RANK	DATE	NUMBER GRADED	RANK	DATE	NUMBER GRADED
1	1870-S	1	24	1866	82
2	1851	11	25	1850	86
3	1852	13	26	1872-CC	87
4	1873-CC	38	27	1873	87
5	1855	46	28	1853	88
6	1871-CC	51	29	1846-O	90
7	1863	53	30	1870	99
8	1858	55	31	1845	101
9	1850-O	57	32	1859-S	102
10	1861	58	33	1841	103
11	1864	60	34	1860	113
12	1868	60	35	1840	126
13	1854	61	36	1870-CC	152
14	1865	61	37	1849	153
15	1856	62	38	1843	156
16	1859	62	39	1872	174
17	1862	62	40	1846	180
18	1857	67	41	1842	194
19	1867	68	42	1847	197
20	1848	73	43	1871	270
21	1869	77	44	1859-O	363
22	1844	79	45	1860-O	508
23	1872-S	79			

table. Dates with the same number of pieces graded by PCGS were arranged so that the earlier date was assigned the smaller rank.

Table 2 shows the total number of pieces certified in each grade. For this presentation I combined all of the numerical grades for the XF and AU grades to provide a total number of pieces for each of these grades. I also combined pieces graded from MS-60 to MS-62 into a single total for mint state coins in this grade range.

I found that there was a total of 4,710 Liberty Seated dollars graded by PCGS, with 3,385 No Motto coins and 1,325 With Motto coins. The vast majority of these pieces were in grades from XF to MS-62. It should be mentioned that slightly more than half of the coins in the MS 60-62 grade range were 1859-O and 1860-O coins. This is not too surprising since both of these dates were released in Treasury hoards during this century. But I was a little surprised by how few 1871 and 1872 coins were listed in the MS 60-62 grade range. There was a total of only 101 coins of both dates combined in the MS 60-62 grades.

Table 2 shows that any Seated dollar graded MS-63 and above is scarce and that those pieces graded MS-65 and MS-66 are really rare. There were also relatively few coins in the lower grades from Good to Fine in the population. This reflects the fact that most collectors do not bother to send in low grade coins from the common dates. But lower grade coins are frequently certified for the Carson City issues and a few other rare dates in the series.

The rank determined for the dates in Table 1 are generally consistent with the ranks given for the dates in the series in the LSCC survey of Seated dollars published in Issue #44 of the journal in March 1989. Large differences in rarity rankings between the two surveys were obtained for the 1863 and 1872-S dates. These two dates were listed as being much more common in the LSCC survey because of hoards of these dates reported by LSCC members that were included in the tabulation.

Conclusions

The information presented in this article does not account for resubmissions or the raw population of Seated dollars held by collectors, but this data does give a good estimate of availability for each date in the series. Furthermore, the total number of Liberty Seated dollars graded is very low when compared to the populations for other series. For example, there have been over 1.2 million Morgan dollars certified by PCGS with most of these pieces in mint state grades.

Table 2
Number of Liberty Seated Dollars Certified by Grade
Circulated Seated Dollars

GRADE	FAIR TO GOOD	VG	FINE	VF	XF	AU
Total	21	49	58	500	849	1649

Mint State Seated Dollars

GRADE	MS 60-62	MS-63	MS-64	MS-65	MS-66
Total	1086	277	162	48	11

HUNTING FOR HALF DIMES?

HALF DIMES

1837	VF-35, No Stars, Small date, a few minor marks	$95
1838-O	F-15, No Stars, very light obverse scratch	150
1838	XF-45, lightly toned, sharp	65
1839-O	VF-30, Medium O, old light cleaning, rotated reverse	30
1840	AU-50, No Drapery, original, sharp strike	115
1840-O	VF-25, No Drapery, reverse die break at bow	40
1841	ANACS AU-55, nice toning	115
1843	AU-50, attractive coin with golden toning	90
1844-O	AG-3, Small o, rotated reverse	45
1844-O	AG-3, Large O, old light cleaning	45
1844-O	G4/AG3, Large O, old cleaning, a few small marks	75
1845	1845/1845, XF-40, pretty toning, light reverse residue	60
1845	AU-55, gorgeous toning, tiny obverse scratch	100
1846	ANACS VG-8, a few minor obverse scratches, original	300
1849	XF-40, attractive and problem free	45
1850-O	VF-25, Large O, ancient cleaning	48
1851-O	VF-35, nice eye appeal	50
1852	XF-45, attractive	60
1852-O	XF-45, sharp original, scarce	275
1853	VF-25, No Arrows, nice original	95
1853-O	G-5, No Arrows, heavy mark above shield, small bend	85
1853-O	F-12, No Arrows, a few minor obverse scratches	275
1854	AU-55, attractive and unimpaired, much luster	95
1855	XF-40, nice peripheral golden toning	50
1856-O	VF-35, very pretty, lightly toned	50
1857	XF-40, sharp, well struck, original	38
1857-O	AU-55, beautiful old album toning	190
1859-O	XF-40, old cleaning, some luster, clash marks	95
1862	XF-45, pleasing original	38
1862	AU-50, sharp	60
1865	ANACS XF-40, sharp original, slightly rotated reverse	550
1868	VF-30, a few minor light marks, nice toning	165
1868-S	VF-35, small reverse field mark, pleasing gray	35
1869-S	VF-20, lightly toned and nice	23
1870	AU-50, small dig in obverse field, nice	48
1870	AU-55, sharp original, wire rim reverse	75
1872-S	AU-55, sharp, much luster	65

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Flynn Publishes Book on Misplaced Dates

Only within the last few years have collectors studied the coins in their collections carefully enough to detect misplaced digits on the obverse of their coins. At first there were only a few isolated discoveries but growing interest in this new field has produced a flood of new discoveries and raised a lot of questions as to how these extra digits could have been punched into the coinage dies. In recent years discoveries have been made faster than they could be reported and many collectors have had difficulty keeping up with the expanding list of known varieties in this field. These issues have been addressed in Kevin Flynn's new book "Two Dates Are Better Than One - A Collector's Guide To Misplaced Dates".

Flynn has presented the results of numismatic research by many experts in the field of misplaced dates and provided a detailed development of many theories on how these extra digits were punched into the coinage dies. Misplaced dates have appeared on the obverse of hundreds of dies of United States coinage from copper half cents to gold double eagles over an extended period from 1842 to 1908. This new book includes a verbal description of each variety with a misplaced date and lists key features on how to identify it. Each variety is illustrated with a full obverse and full reverse picture along with close up pictures of the area where the extra digits appear on the obverse die. These pictures clearly identify each variety for the interested collector. A rarity rating is given for most of the listed varieties along with an estimate of collector demand for each variety. Estimates of market value for each variety are also given when available.

Near the end of his book the author provides a list of all known misplaced date varieties by denomination and series. This listing is very helpful in obtaining an overview of the appearance of misplaced dates on United States coinage. For example, there is a lengthy list of misplaced date varieties in the Liberty Seated series for the 1850s but no such varieties are listed for Liberty Seated coinage from 1860 to 1864. Is there some reason why these errors were not produced during this five year period? Misplaced dates began to appear again on Seated coinage by 1865. It could be argued that the introduction of the three cent nickel and shield nickel at this time created an increased demand for coinage dies resulting in the use of machinery tools that once again produced these errors on the dies.

This new book on misplaced dates is a first attempt to catalogue the known varieties in this field and is the most comprehensive listing of such varieties ever published. The book contains valuable information on over 120 misplaced date varieties of Liberty Seated coins of all denominations from half dimes to Trade Dollars. I believe that this book will become the standard reference book for misplaced date varieties in the years ahead. While new varieties are bound to be discovered in the coming years, this book will serve as the new base from which to expand the knowledge on these interesting and unusual varieties. I would recommend this book to any individual interested in misplaced date varieties or to any other collector who might wish to use the book as a reference to identify any misplaced date varieties that he might already own.

The Editor

An 1876 Proof Half Dollar with a Misplaced Mintmark on the Obverse

by

Allan C. Murphy

Recently I was contacted by a friend of mine concerning some coins that he had just acquired. One of the items that he wanted me to see was an impaired proof 1876 half dollar. As a variety collector I am always interested in studying 19th century coinage but I didn't really expect to find anything unusual on this proof half dollar. After all, I had been informed that the coin had most likely circulated briefly during the 19th century and that it showed some abrasions in the fields.

A few days later I made a trip to my friend's coin shop to examine the coin. I quickly learned that I couldn't have been more wrong in my expectations for this 1876 proof half dollar. I made a careful examination of the coin and soon found myself looking at what appeared to be the remains of the top portion of a C mintmark in the neck of Miss Liberty on the obverse of the coin. After making this discovery I purchased the coin and took it home for a more thorough examination. I confirmed that the extra marks in the neck of Miss Liberty were the remains of the top portion of a C, similar in size and shape to the punch used to make Carson City mintmarks on coins of this period.

Club member Jack White told me to contact half dollar specialist Dick Osburn and ask him for an opinion on the defects that appeared on the obverse of this coin. I wrote to Mr. Osburn and after an exchange of letters, he agreed to examine my coin. He confirmed my findings and stated that there was definitely a C in Miss Liberty's

1876 Proof Half Dollar with C mintmark in Neck

neck, most likely from a mintmark punch. He also stated that he had not seen another piece like it in the Seated half dollar series.

At about this time I learned that Kevin Flynn had an interest in misplaced digits and that he was preparing a book on this subject. I arranged for him to study my coin and to provide an opinion on the obverse defects. He indicated that he agreed with the conclusion reached by Dick Osburn and myself, that the remains of a C mintmark were visible in Miss Liberty's neck. He also indicated that he had shown the piece to several other prominent numismatists and that they agreed that a stray mintmark had been punched into the obverse die.

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to Jack White, Dick Osburn and Kevin Flynn for their assistance in helping me confirm my findings on this 1876 proof half dollar. I would also like to thank Kevin Flynn for his photograph of my coin.

Research is now being done to determine how this stray punch found its way into Miss Liberty's neck on the obverse die. Very recently I was informed by Dick Osburn that he was aware of a second coin with this obverse. Other examples of this variety likely exist and will be identified only through examination of the coins now in collector hands.

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1851	XF-45, scarce	195
1856	XF-45, steel gray	60
1857-S	XF-40, rare this nice	395
1862	XF-45, scarce this nice	85
1870	AU-55, lustrous, scarce	350
1872	XF-45, needle sharp strike	150
1876-CC	XF-45	95
1878-CC	XF-40, steel gray	100
1883	XF-45	325
1891	XF-40	50

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DIMES

1838-O	No Stars, O/O, VG, nice	$35
1838	VF+, GR-101, doubled die rev.	40
1838	VF+, GR-105, original	30
1839-O	VG+, GR-102, rim ding	15
1841	XF+, cleaned, die scratches	125
1841-O	A-5, XF	80
1841-O	A-5, VF/XF	40
1842	AU, A-3, nice	170
1842	Good+, original	9
1843	3/3, A-5, AU58+/MS63+	300
1843	Recut Date, MS-63, very pretty	380
1849-O	VF, Small o, GR-102, nice	70
1850-O	XF, Medium O, A-3, original	175
1850-O	VF-30+, micro o, scarce	125
1854-O	XF-45, A-1, lustrous	110
1855	AU/XF+, very nice	90
1855	VF30/35, cleaned, nice	20
1856	Small Date, XF-45+, doubled die obv.	100
1856-O	56/56, VF+, Large O, GR-102	25
1859	AU-58+, beautiful	225
1859	XF-45+/AU+, choice & lustrous	120
1860	AU-58+, A-1, beautiful	175
1866-S	F+, medium gray	75
1867	AU-58+	1900
1868-S	Good, scarce	15
1873-S	Good, GR-101, Small thin s	15
1873-S	XF-45+, Block s, sharp	250
1874	Good, multi-color toning	10
1875	18/18, XF-45, GR-101, scarce	55
1875	Fine, 1 in denticles	65
1876-CC	DDO, F+, GR-101, Rev A	50
1876-S	XF, Type I rev, spike in shield	60
1877-CC	XF+, obv die cracks	35
1877-S	Recut date, XF, GR-101	48
1880	AU-59, a choice beauty	420
1886	86/86, XF, GR-101, nice color	27
1887-S	MS-63+, a beauty	225
1890	VG+/G, extra digit in gown	40
1890	XF+, original	22
1891	VF, GR-101, digit in denticles	35
1891	XF+, nice colors	20
1891-O	XF	24

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On the Cover

The covers of this issue of the journal present pictures of an 1838 Gobrecht Dollar in proof condition. This particular coin was sold as Lot #2202 in the Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection by Bowers & Merena Galleries on April 8, 1997. In the Eliasberg catalogue it is described as having a reeded edge with a coin turn and without reverse die cracks. This coin has been graded Proof-64 and the surfaces are described as follows in the catalogue: Lilac toning over deep mirror surfaces changes to splashes of magenta and blue on the obverse, while on the reverse a delicate gunmetal-blue toning prevails throughout, with some splashes of magenta and lighter blue.

The obverse design of this Gobrecht Dollar is similar to the regular issue Liberty Seated dollars but it is different from the standard design in a number of ways. The most striking difference is in the size of the rock to the left of the shield. The rock on the 1838 Gobrecht Dollar extends out and nearly touches the first star on the left. This rock has been greatly reduced in size for the regular issue Liberty Seated dollars of 1840. The word LIBERTY is raised on the banner across the shield on the 1838 Gobrecht Dollar while this lettering appears incused on all regular issue Seated dollars. The 1838 Gobrecht Dollar has no drapery at the elbow while all regular issue Liberty Seated dollars have a strong drapery fold at the elbow.

The 1836 Gobrecht Dollars have no obverse stars but a group of twenty six stars in the field around the flying eagle on the reverse. The 1838 Gobrecht Dollar has no reverse stars in the field but a group of thirteen stars on the obverse. These stars were placed in an arc around the obverse rim and aligned so that they point toward each other. The star alignment was changed so that the stars point toward the denticles when regular issue Liberty Seated dollars were struck in 1840. The 1838 Gobrecht Dollar has stronger drapery folds than seen on regular issue Seated dollars. The Gobrecht Dollars also show a full foot extending out from under Miss Liberty's gown and three fingers on the hand holding the shield, features not seen on regular issue Seated dollars.

All Gobrecht Dollars have very small dates that fill in less than half of the space between the base of the rock and the denticles. The date size was increased significantly for the striking of regular issue Seated dollars in 1840. Gobrecht Dollars have broad edges on the shield with the lowest horizontal stripe appearing unusually bold. These features were reduced in prominence for regular issue dollars of 1840. The thumb of Miss Liberty's hand on Gobrecht Dollars extends into the ribbon near the letter L in LIBERTY. On regular issue Seated dollars the thumb does not reach to the ribbon. The features identified make it clear that Gobrecht Dollars have their own distinguishing characteristics that do not appear on other Seated coins.

The reverse of the 1838 Gobrecht Dollar shows a flying eagle with wings extended in flight. This design was never used for regular issue Seated dollars. The denomination ONE DOLLAR was shortened to read ONE DOL. for regular issue Seated dollars.

The pictures of the 1838 Gobrecht Dollar were provided by Bowers & Merena Inc. for presentation on the covers of the journal.

The Editor

HALF DIMES

1837	No Stars, Fine	$50
1840	No Drapery, VF	25
1844	AU, V-3B	125
1847	XF, V-1	95
1849-O	F/VF	125
1852-O	VF	125
1854-O	VF	20
1857-O	Fine	16
1861	VF	20
1863-S	Fine	40
1865-S	VF	50
1868-S	MS-63	795
1868-S	XF	60
1870	XF	35
1872-S	MS-60, V-5	150
1872-S	XF	35
1873-S	XF	50

DIMES

1838-O	No Stars, VG	$60
1841	XF	55
1841-O	Micro o, VF	40
1842-O	XF	195
1843-O	VF	250
1845-O	VF	175
1847	AU, GR-103	350
1848	XF/AU	125
1849-O	Micro o, XF	250
1853-O	VF	35
1857-O	AU	175
1858-O	XF	125
1860-S	VF	125
1868	VF	35
1868-S	XF	115
1869	Fine	30
1870	VF	25
1872	XF	35
1873	Arrows, VF	45
1874	Arrows, VF	50
1876-CC	AU, GR-102	95
1886-S	VF	85
1889	MS-64	575
1890	XF, GR-105	125

QUARTERS

1840-O	No Drapery, XF, Breen #3939	$495
1841	XF	225
1841-O	VF, doubled die obv, Briggs 2C	75
1842-O	XF, Large date	175
1843-O	VF, Small o	80
1847-O	VG	40
1853/4	VF	225
1853-O	XF	250

QUARTERS

1855-O	VF	$250
1862-S	VF	250
1862-S	Fine	175
1864	XF	250
1865	AU	390
1865-S	VF	275
1868-S	VF	225
1869-S	VF	265
1873	XF/AU, Arrows	275
1873-S	VF	195
1874-S	VF/XF	195
1876-CC	VF, fine reeding	65
1876-S	AU/BU	165
1878-CC	AU	225
1886	Proof	650
1891-O	VG/F	225

HALF DOLLARS

1840	XF/AU	$195
1841-O	XF/AU	225
1843-O	XF/AU	140
1853	AU, Arrows	395
1855-O	XF/AU	150
1858-O	AU	195
1858-S	XF	175
1859-O	MS-63, WB-102	825
1860-O	AU	180
1863	AU	275
1863-S	UNC	525
1864-S	AU	255
1865-S	XF	95
1866-S	No Motto, XF	825
1871-CC	VF	600
1872	VF	95
1872-CC	VF	325
1873	XF/AU, Arrows	250
1875-CC	XF	170
1876-CC	VF/XF	125
1880	UNC	700
1888	VF	295
1889	VF/XF	335

SEATED DOLLARS

1840	VG	$175
1842	AU	750
1844	XF/AU, Breen 5431	600
1849	VG/F	185
1866	VF	400

TRADE DOLLARS

1874-S	MS-60	$445
1875-S	MS-60	500
1876-S	MS-60	485
1878-CC	VF	875

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A New Variety for the 1888 Seated Dime

by

Chris Pilliod

There were many nice collector coins to choose from at the ANA Convention in New York City in August but I found that an increasing percentage of these coins have been slabbed. Many of these slabbed coins grade MS-64 to MS-67 and are rather expensive for the average collector interested in die varieties. But there is still a nice supply of pieces graded AU-50 to MS-63 that provide a good opportunity for the collector to acquire some interesting pieces for his collection.

One of the more interesting pieces that I found at the convention was a slabbed 1888 Seated dime with an extra digit in the rock below the gown. The bottom of an extra 8 can be seen in the rock above the last two 8s in the date. This extra digit is rather shallow and may not be able to be seen on circulated specimens. The position of the date relative to the base of the rock and the denticles might be useful in identifying this obverse when traces of the extra digit have been obscured by circulation.

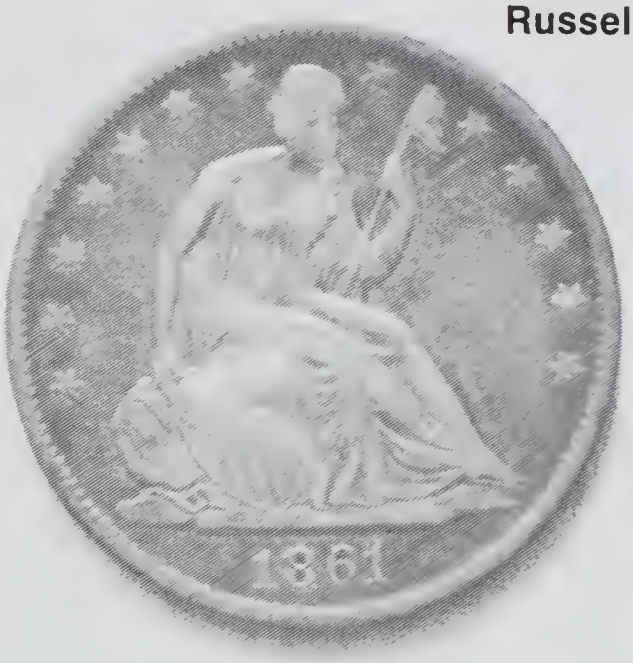
1888 Dime with Extra 8 in Rock

¤ • ¤

An 1861 Half Dollar With Masonic Reverse

by

Russell Stolling



Recently I found an 1861 Liberty Seated half dollar with a Masonic reverse while browsing through the half dollar inventory at a coin shop in Fresno, California. While I am not a collector of engraved coins, this one was so interesting and skillfully done that I purchased it. This piece seems to be more of a commemorative piece than a love token, since it appears to celebrate an event rather than a person or a relationship. This piece is also unusual in that engraved coins of this period were most often half dimes or dimes. This design was executed on a half dollar at a time when this denomination was a significant amount of money and when silver coinage was still scarce in circulation.

The obverse of the piece is that of an 1861 half dollar in Fine condition. The reverse has been planed smooth and engraved with a cross and shield. Within the left and right arms of the cross are Masonic symbols: the Bible, a compass and a carpenter's square at the left; a triangle, and three other tools including a pick and shovel at the right. At the top of the cross there is the inscription L. HIB WHITTLESEY. At the bottom there is the name of a town, a lodge number and a date: GREAT BEND, H.R.A.C. No. 210, JUNE 20/67. There are two concentric circles within the shield at the center of the cross. Within the two circles are eight letters reading from the 12 o'clock position: H T W S S T K S. There is a pair of hands in the center of the design holding what appear to be a knife and a stick. The left hand is holding the stick while the right hand is using the knife to carve the stick.

At first I thought that the 1861 date on the obverse might indicate that the piece was made to celebrate some event during the Civil War, but the engraved 1867 date on the reverse caused me to reconsider this assumption. The Masonic symbols are also a strong indicator that the coin was used to

commemorate an event. Was WHITTLESEY an individual? Is the No. 210 a reference to a Masonic lodge? Where is GREAT BEND? Was this coin made as a remembrance of someone's induction to the Masons, or of his installation as an officer in the lodge?

I have located towns named Great Bend in Pennsylvania, Kansas and North Dakota. There may be others. Because the mint struck reverse has been planed off, it is impossible to determine the mint of origin of this coin by studying its reverse. The coin lacks any discernible obverse cracks or other marks that would identify the obverse die. If the date on the obverse has any significance, it might be helpful to remember that 1861 was the year that Kansas became a state.

I would be interested in hearing from any club member who could provide any information on the meaning of the inscriptions on the reverse of this coin. I will report any information that I obtain from club members in a future issue of the journal. Please send any information on the symbols illustrated on the reverse of this coin to: Rus Stolling, 1295 Shaw Ave, Suite 331, Clovis, California 93612.

HALF DIMES

1842-O	Good	$20
1848	8/7/6, Very Good	65
1858	Over Inverted Date, Very Good+	52
1859	1859/159, V-3, Fine	34
1862	Uphill date, V-4, Fine/VF	25

DIMES

1837	Small Date, Very Good, original, nice	$32
1838	A-5, obverse cracked from 7th star through 1 in date, VG+	25
1845	1845/1845, GR-103, Very Good+	28
1849	1849/1849, doubled date, GR-101, Good	18
1863-S	VF-25, nice coin	85
1889	GR-101, doubled die reverse, Fine	35

QUARTERS

1841-O	Briggs 1-B, Fine	$37
1845	45/45, Briggs 3-C, Very Fine	55

QUARTERS

1853	853/854, Briggs 1-A, early die state, a few hidden scratches, original, VF-30	$175
1876-S	Briggs 2-A, rare variety, Fine	65

HALF DOLLARS

1840	40/40, WB-104, light scratches in obverse field, F/VF	$49
1843	WB-104, center dot in lap, Fine/VF	59
1847	47/47, Good/VG, nice original	39
1858	XF	69
1860-O	WB-105, recut mintmark, three obverse rim nicks, Very Fine	43
1870	WB-102, recut 1, Very Good/Fine, scarce	50
1871	WB-102, extra 1 in rock, rare variety, XF	145
1871	WB-103, recut 18, XF/VF35, nice toning	85

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Grieb Wins Ahwash Award for 1997

Scott G. Grieb won the Kamal M. Ahwash Literary Award for 1997 for his contribution, "Of Coin Stories - Three Cent Shops and Double Eagle Prizes, Part One", that appeared in Issue #69 of the journal. The Ahwash Award is given annually for the best article to appear in the journal as voted by the club members. This year's award covered the material in Issues #67 to #69 and the award winner was determined as a result of a vote by club members during July 1997. A total of 66 ballots was received from club members who were asked to vote for no more than three articles which they liked best during the last year. It was decided to allow individuals to vote for three articles because the large number of choices would likely spread the votes out among many articles. There were 174 votes cast from the 66 ballots. A complete listing of the results is given below.

RANK, ARTICLE AND AUTHOR	VOTES
1. *Of Coin Stories - Three Cent Shops and Double Eagle Prizes, Part One* by Scott Grieb	23
2. *A Theory on the Cause of Misplaced Dates* by Ron Landis	21
3. *Star Alignment on Liberty Seated Coinage* by Tom DeLorey	16
4. *Liberty Seated Coins from 1878 to 1891 Saw Extensive Circulation* by William Cregan	10
5. *Major Causes of Dull or Rough Surfaces on Uncirculated Carson City Coinage* by Weimar White	10
6. *Conclusions on Misplaced Digits Found in the Liberty Seated Dime Series* by Gerry Fortin	9
7. *Rediscovering the 1871-S Half Dime* by Stephen Crain	8
8. *Variety Analysis of Business Strike Trade Dollars* by Joe Kirchgessner	8
9. *The Gobrecht Journal Database* by Dick Osburn	6
10. *Analysis of an 1861 Counterfeit Dime* by Chris Pilliod	6
11. *The Final Eliasberg Sale* by Larry Briggs	5
12. *A Second Die Marriage for the 1840-O Medium O Half Dime* by Jack Marston, Kevin Zeitler & Bill Harmon	5
13. *Locating an 1883 Seated Quarter, an Unexpected Rare Find* by D.W. Dixon	4
14. *Background on the 1876 Nevada Centennial Medal* by Hal Dunn	4
15. *An Unusual 1860 Half Dime* by Don Hansen	4
16. *A Comprehensive Study of Proof 1856 Small Date Dimes* by Joey Lamonte	3

RANK, ARTICLE AND AUTHOR	VOTES
17. *A New Doubled Die 1850-O Half Dollar* by Dick Osburn	3
18. *A Master Die for 1853 Half Dollars with Misplaced Digits* by Lynn Ourso	3
19. *New Information on Die Varieties of 1870-CC Dollars* by Bert Schlosser	3
20. *The 1873 WA Doubled Die Obverse Dime - The King of Liberty Seated Doubled Dies* by Jack White	3
21. *The Nevada Dollar of 1876* by Weimar White	3
22. *An Off Center 1857 Half Dime* by Al Blythe	2
23. *A Late Die State 1840-O V-10 Half Dime* by Jack Marston	2
24. *A New Variety for the 1853-O Half Dollar* by Paul Brill	1
25. *A Special 1846 Quarter* by Ken Cable	1
26. *Detecting Surface Alterations on Liberty Seated Dollars* by F. Fazzari	1
27. *New Seated Dime Misplaced Digits* by Gerry Fortin	1
28. *A New Obverse for the 1875 Seated Dime* by Dave Hensley	1
29. *A Matching Set of Love Tokens* by Carl Honore	1
30. *The Wide CC Mintmark on the 1873-CC Trade Dollar* by Joe Kirchgessner	1
31. *New Varieties for 1876 to 1878 Philadelphia Quarters* by Ray Lathrop	1
32. *The 1851 Half Dollar with a Blundered 8 in the Denticles* by Dick Osburn	1
33. *A Working Hub Die Gouge on Liberty Seated Dimes* by Larry Rausch	1
34. *An Interesting 1841 Seated Dollar* by Dave Schaefer	1
35. *An Interesting 1854-O Half Dime* by Mark Sheldon	1
36. *A Fascinating 1876-CC Half Dollar* by Michael Williams	1

With 36 of the 37 eligible articles receiving support for the best article award, it is evident that there are diverse interests and preferences within the club. However, even one vote for an article indicates that it was important to at least one reader, and therefore a worthy contribution to the available information on Liberty Seated coinage. The officers wish to thank all those members who took the time to contribute articles during the past year, and we hope that we will continue to receive interesting and exciting material in the years ahead.

The Editor

LSCC Annual Meeting in New York

The 24th Annual Meeting of LSCC was held during the 106th Anniversary Convention of the American Numismatic Association in New York City on July 31, 1997. It was announced that the club had a successful year with the publication of three 52 page issues of the journal while completing the year with a financial surplus of $1,141.39. This calculates to a surplus of about $1.70 per member. It was also announced that the club paid all costs for the publication of Collective Volume Number Four of the Gobrecht Journal during the fall of 1996. But to pay these expenses it was necessary to borrow a sum of $8,000 from the club treasury. It is expected that continued sales of the new collective volume over the next few years will provide the club with the necessary funds to repay this loan in full by the time that plans are being made to publish the next collective volume.

Those members who attended the annual meeting were asked to make recommendations on the type of articles that they would like to see in future issues of the journal. This list is being provided to club members in the hope that those individuals with knowledge in the areas described will prepare an article for publication in the journal. Suggested topics for future articles in the journal are as follows:

1. More articles on Gobrecht Dollars.
2. More articles on Trade Dollar types and varieties.
3. More articles on the history of coinage and its use during the 19th century.
4. Articles on Seated patterns produced during the 19th century.
5. An article on the history of the 1870-S dollar.
6. More articles on proof coinage of the 19th century.
7. An article providing a complete description of the six Valentine varieties of the 1840 No Drapery half dime.
8. An article providing tips on how to properly photograph coins to illustrate the features of a specific variety.
9. Another survey on Liberty Seated dollars.
10. More articles on collections of Seated coins and the historical significance of important specimens in each collection.
11. A list of reference material on Seated coins outside of the Gobrecht Journal.
12. A list of dates of Liberty Seated half dollars with a rotated reverse.

The Editor

Collective Volume Number Four Available

Copies of the Collective Volume Number Four of the journal can be purchased from the club President at the established price of $44. This book contains 580 pages of research material on Liberty Seated coinage published in the journal from November 1990 to July 1995. Make checks payable to Liberty Seated Collectors Club and send order to: John McCloskey, President LSCC, 5718 King Arthur Drive, Kettering, Ohio 45429.

Letters to the Editor

The two articles in Issue #69 of the journal on misplaced dates were both very interesting but I don't believe that either one totally solves the mystery of how these extra digits were punched into the working dies. I believe that it is a misalignment problem as so many of these extra digits seem to be punched into the same area of the dies over an extended period of years. I would think that if a date punch was released by accident, it would be randomly placed on the die instead of always coming down in certain areas near the correct location on the die. In his chart presented in Issue #69 for misplaced digits on Seated dimes, Gerry Fortin shows that from 1851 to 1877 there were seven dies with misplaced digits on the main device that were shifted left while only four dies have been identified with extra digits in other positions. It sounds like a jig could be the possible source of the problem since a worker might not have been able to see the die while the punch was being made.

I believe that more research is needed to identify the source of the extra digits on the working dies. I don't believe that just resting the punch on the die could have made the impressions that are now visible on these coins struck so many years ago.

John M. Heninger
LSCC #1226

I am looking for an 1856 Seated dollar certified by PCGS or NGC in an XF or AU grade. Please let me know if anyone has such a coin for sale.

W.T. Jones
LSCC #739

I recently purchased an 1891 GR-102 dime that has a raised segment to the right of the base of the second 1 in the date. This segment looks like it could be the remains of a previously punched 1. I believe that this may be an early die state of the GR-102 variety. Has anyone seen an example of this variety with the extra segment to the right of the date?

Lynn Ourso
LSCC #1676

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LSCC Regional Meeting at FUN Convention

There will be an Eastern Regional meeting of LSCC at the FUN Convention in January 1998. The meeting will be held at 9:00 AM on Friday, January 9, 1998 in Orlando, Florida during the FUN Convention. The meeting will be held in Room 231C at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. We hope that LSCC members will take this opportunity to gather and exchange information on Liberty Seated coins.

The Editor

LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Publishers of the **GOBRECHT JOURNAL**

Treasurer's Report 1996-1997

Beginning Balance - August 3, 1996		$9,099.31
Receipts		
New Members	$ 720.00	
Renewal memberships	8,396.00	
Advertising	680.00	
Donations	17.00	
Interest Income	147.15	
Total Receipts	$9,960.15	
Total Available		$19,059.46
Disbursements		
Printing	$ 5,505.00	
Postage & Office Expenses	3,280.76	
ANA Membership Dues	33.00	
Total Spent	$ 8,818.76	
Balance July 24, 1997		$ 10,240.70
Borrowed from Treasury for Collective Volume Number Four	$ 8,000.00	
Cash Balance July 24, 1997		$ 2,240.70

John Kroon
Secretary/Treasurer

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Reverse Picture of
1838 Gobrecht Dollar

Your comments on any of the articles, ads, or club policies are invited. This is your club and the Officers are dedicated to operating it on behalf of the members. Address any comments to:

John McCloskey
Editor, Gobrecht Journal
5718 King Arthur Drive
Kettering, Ohio 45429